

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03901 091117Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01
SSM-03 /078 W

-----069365 091119Z /12

O 091027Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8701
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3901

E.O. 11652: GDS
TALS: PINS, PINT, LE, SY
SUB: SITUATION IN LEBANON

1. FONMIN KHADDAM MET WITH FRG AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS AND
UK CHARGE AFTERNOON JULY 7 TO EXPRESS SYRIAN RESENTMENT AT
STATEMENT OF THE NINE AND EXPLAIN SYRIA'S POSITION. EC STATEMENT,
KHADDAM COMPLAINED, MADE IT SEEM THAT SYRIA WAS JUST ANOTHER
PARTY. IT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THAT SYRIAN FORCES WERE ACTING
ON BEHALF OF THE LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES NOR DID
IT SHOW ANY APPRECIATION OF SYRIA'S SACRIFICES TO SAVE LEBANON.

KHADDAM ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT SYRIA WAS NOT OVERREACTING
TO SITUATION. HE SAID SYRIAN FORCES IN ADF HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO SHOW MAXIMUM RESTRAINT AND REELED OFF LIST OF PROVOCATIONS
TO WHICH ADF HAD NOT RESPONDED. HE AFFIRMED THAT ADF
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 03901 091117Z

WOULD NOT BACK DOWN IN FACE OF THESE OUTLAW PROVOCATIONS WHICH
WOULD HAVE STOPPED BY NOW EXCEPT FOR ISRAEL'S ENCOURAGEMENT.
SYRIA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PRES. SARKIS AND LEBANESE
LEGITIMACY. KHADDAM SAID, AND HE ASKED FOR GREATER EUROPEAN
UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIA'S ROLE.

3. LOCAL BBC CORRESPONDENT HAS SEEN MIN INFO ISKANDAR AHMAD

TWICE IN PAST TWO DAYS. MINISTER TOLD HIM SYRIA HAD STOPPED FIRING BECAUSE OF PRES. SARKIS' THREAT TO RESIGN. IF SARKIS DID RESIGN, HOWEVER, SYRIA WOULD BLAME THE MILITIAS AND WOULD EXPECT THE ADF TO TAKE STRONG ACTION AGAINST THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDERS FROM THE LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER. IF ISRAEL INTERVENED, THERE WOULD BE WAR. HOWEVER, ISKANDAR AHMAD POSTURED, SYRIAN TROOPS WERE ON ALERT AND SYRIA DID NOT RPT NOT EXPECT AN ISRAELI INTERVENTION. ISRAEL MERELY WANTED TO KEEP THE POT BOILING.

4. PRES. ASSAD RECEIVED KUWAITS FONMIN SABALI AL-AHMAD EVENING JULY 8 IN COMPANY OF KHADDAM. ACCORDING TO PRESS, THEY AGREED ON NEED TO REINFORCE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY OF STATE AND CONTROL THE MILITIAS. PRES ASSAD ALSO RECEIVED GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH ELIAS IV WHO ACCORDING TO PRESS, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ASSAD'S EFFORTS IN LEBANON "FOR THE SAKE OF ALL ITS SONS."
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC03901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780281-0818
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780782/aaaacqxn.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c98e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2076577
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN LEBANON
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c98e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014